Colorado State Conservation Board 2007 Matching Grants Project: Yuma County Conservation District: Knapweed Control

What natural resource problem(s) did the project address?

In 2006, the Yuma County District had held a local meeting in the Kirk/Joes area of southern Yuma county and knapweed infestation was identified as a as a major issue that needed addressing – specifically in the upper reaches of the Arikaree and the South Fork of the Republican River. Knapweed infestations in Montana have resulted in abandonment of farm and ranches where the weed has spread out of control and ruined land productivity (USDA, 1998). In the Yuma County District knapweed is found on Conservation Reserve Program land, native rangeland, crop land and in road ditches. Control of noxious weeds, such as knapweed, generally requires efforts over a minimum of three years to be effective.

What was achieved?

- Working group of landowners and stakeholders, such as the Yuma County Conservation District and the State
 Land Board, formed late in 2006 to organize and focus efforts. Focus committee charged with making
 personal contacts with landowners to maximize participation in control and eradication efforts.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and District staff scouted areas from 17 applications
 received for knapweed treatment cost-share. Eight applications identified as having knapweed populations on
 land not eligible for Environmental Quality Incentive Program cost-share, encompassing 2,170 acres.
- These 2,170 acres infested with knapweed sprayed in late spring/early summer.
- Sprayed fields monitored and sprayed again in fall for maximum control.
- The \$25,000 CSCB matching grant was leveraged by \$28,330 from producers. This did not treat all the
 infested acres and additional \$22,000 funds were raised \$3,000 from the Nature Conservancy, \$4,000
 from the Republican River Habitat partnership program and \$15,000 from Yuma County Conservation District.
- Sprayed fields will be monitored by the Yuma Pest Control District, NRCS and Yuma County Conservation
 District and funding is being secured for continuing treatment of sprayed fields as needed and of new fields
 that may be identified as infested.



There are three species of knapweed on the Colorado State Noxious Weed List - Russian, Spotted and Diffuse. They are all serious threats to agricultural productivity and wildlife habitat.

